THE NINTH DAY.

7th March, 1924.

The Assembly met at 12 Noon on Friday, the 7th March, 1924.

Rao Bahadur R. Viraraghava Aiyengar B. A., B. L., Officer in charge of the Administration, presided.

Before beginning the proceedings the President said :— "As you are already aware, the Dewan is leaving Trivandrum to-day, and His Highness the Maha Raja has been graciously pleased to appoint me to act for him. I have thus been afforded another opportunity and the honor of presiding over the deliberations of the Assembly ; and I request you to extend to me your hearty co-operation in the conduct of this Assembly. (*Applause.*)"

102. Unwillingness of heads of Departments to appoint Ezhava boys and girls in the lower ranks of the service.

Mr. S. Padmanabha Panikkar (Member, Nominated) said that, although Government had passed orders that Ezhavas should be encouraged in the matter of education and public service, they were deriving practically little advantage from those orders owing to the indifference of heads of departments. He made special reference to the Registration Department and complained about the non-entertainment of Ezhavas. Last year he submitted the applications of a number of Ezhava young men who had passed the 7th class, the 9th class and survey examinations. Some of those men had become over-aged for admission into the service. Considering the paucity of educated men in the community, he requested that Ezhavas might be exempted from the operations of the rule relating to age bar in the T. S. R.

The Member then stated that there was only one lady graduate, among Ezhavas, and requested that she might be employed in the Education Department.

Another complaint he had to make was that some Ezhava school-masters were being transferred to distant places on the suspicion that they were concerned in the anti-drink agitation. One such was one Kunjuraman, who had nothing to do with that agitation. He assured the Government that no Ezhava school-master had any hand in such agitation and prayed that all of them, and Kunjuraman in particular, might be retransferred to their original stations.

President's reply.—Mr. Padmanabha Panikkar, you first referred to the appointment of Ezhavas. Let me inform you that Government are doing the needful on that subject.

In regard to your representation about the Registration Department, it will be communicated to the Director of Registration, who will do all that is possible consistent with efficiency.

With regard to your representation concerning a teacher, who, you say, did not take any part in the anti-drink movement, but was away from the place, your representation is noted, and Government will take the necessary action on the matter.

103. Public Service and Tamilians.

Mr. Kanakku Matevan Pillai Perumal Pillai (Member, Agastisvaram taluk), while alluding to the representations made in the last session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly on the subject of recruitment to the public service and the Dewan's reply thereto, said that all big appointments in the State were held by officers belonging to either the Brahmin, Nair, or the Christian community. He suggested that recruitment to service from the different communities should be based on the status of those communities, their population, their education and the kist they paid to the Government.

Though many communities came under the category of Tamilians, the Member said that he confined his attention to the grievances of Nanjanad Vellalas

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As his community paid more kist to the Government than several other communities, the Member requested that it might be duly represented in the service and that educated Vellala young men without employment might be provided with jobs by Government. Further, he stated that his community was poorly represented in the Judicial, Revenue and other Departments of the State service, and to remedy that defect he suggested that Vellalas who were in service, and who had passed the Revenue and Departmental Tests, might be duly promoted, and that those who had passed the Tamil Higher examination might be appointed as Tamil Munshies in the Education Department or given suitable appointments in other departments of the State carrying a pay of Rs. 40 or above. He also suggested that all Sub-Registrars and clerks in the Tamil taluks should be Tamilians. The community had no adequate facilities for education and the Member thanked the Government for appointing Mr. Sankararama Aiya, a Tamil scholar, as Assistant Inspector, and suggested the creation of a new Tamil Range and the appointment of Mr. Aiya as the Inspector thereof for the improvement of the Tamil language. He concluded his representation with a request that the vacancies in all departments might be filled by qualified Nanjanad Vellalas during the next ten years.

President's reply.—You said that facilities for education for Nanjanad Vellalas were not sufficient. You have also said that the Nanjanad Vellalas have not been sufficiently represented in the public service. The policy of Government is to give equal opportunities to all classes of His Highness the Maha Raja's subjects. Without prejudice to character, efficiency and education, Government will give adequate representation in the service to all classes. Your representation is noted.

104. Christians in the Public Service.

Mr. Chacko Mathew (Member, Trading Classes, Changanachery) said that the Christian community did not secure adequate representation in the public service and in the several representative institutions of the State. Though the Land Revenue Department had been thrown open to all classes of the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja, sufficient encouragement was not being afforded to Christians in the matter of employment in that department. Government gave a sympathetic reply to the representation made on that subject at the previous session of the Assembly, but the appointments since made in the Land Revenue Department would show that nothing tangible was being done towards improving the position of the Christian community in that respect, and especially the Roman Catholic section thereof. The Member said that Government had often remarked that Christians got more than their due share of appointments in the Judicial, Medical and Education Departments ; but he doubted the truth of that remark. Strictly speaking, the members of his community had a right to 30 per cent. of the appointments in the State service. But their representation in the Judicial, Police, Forest and Education Departments as well as in the Departments of Ayurveda, Agriculture and Industries was far below that standard. He suggested the desirability of adopting the principle of communal representation as the only effective means of removing the inequalities in question. He was aware that the principle advocated was not altogether sound, since it was opposed to high ideals of citizenship. The fact that there was ill-feeling as between the different communities living in the State could not, however, be ignored, and hence he brought that suggestion forward.

President's reply.—As I replied to the previous speaker, the intention of the Government is to give equal opportunities to all communities, with due regard to efficiency, character and education. But the rate of progress may not be as fast as you desire. It is not possible for Government to say that their principles could be given effect to within a prescribed term. The aim of Government is that all communities should be given equal opportunities and to remedy their grievances as early as possible. The question of representation of Roman Catholics in the public service will be specially noted.

105. Adequate representation of Roman Catholics in the Public Service.

Mr. M. P. Augustine (Member, Municipal Council, Alwaye) began by observing that the Catholics, who formed one of the most prominent communities in Travancore in point of numerical strength, education and wealth, were not receiving due

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